

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Delete the Abstract set forth on page 17 of the application and insert in its stead:

A dividing wall column ~~comprises~~ is described which includes the following segments:

- a) an upper column region (1),
- b) an enrichment section (2) of the feed section,
- c) a stripping section (4) of the feed section,
- d) an upper part (3) of the offtake section,
- e) a lower part (5) of the offtake section,
- f) an intermediate region (9) of the feed section,
- g) an intermediate region (10) of the offtake section and
- h) a lower column region (6).

~~For the purposes of the present invention, it is essential that~~ The dividing wall column has a ~~the~~ dividing wall (7) which is located vertically between the segments b) (2) and d) (3) and between the segments c) (4) and e) (5), ~~the~~ The segments b) (2), d) (3), c) (4) and e) (5) have separation-active internals, ~~and Segment b~~ Segment b (2) has a ~~the~~ cross-sectional area A_b ~~of the segment b~~ (2) which is at least 10% smaller than the crosssectional area A_d of segment d) (3), and segment c (4) has a ~~the~~ crosssectional area A_c ~~of the segment e~~ (4) which is at least 10% greater than the cross-sectional area A_e , of segment e) (5).